

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/694,332

Applicant(s)

GROLITZER ET AL.

Examiner

Dr. Kelechi C. Egwim

Art Unit

1713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the filings on 10/24/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 10-14.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Janelle Strode on 12/27/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

In claim 1, line 3 on page 4 of the amendments (10/24/2005) before "greater than 10,000", delete "about".

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art was found to teach or sufficiently suggest an acrylate copolymer product prepared by

a) bulk charging up to 90% of at least two acrylate monomers comprising ethyl acrylate and 2- ethylhexyl acrylate to a first stage reaction zone;

b) solution polymerizing said monomers to about 10 to 90% conversion in the presence of an initiator with an initiator to monomers mole ratio of about 1×10^{-4} :1 to 5×10^{-2} :1, the monomer content of 2- ethylhexyl acrylate being higher than the content of the another monomer comprising ethyl acrylate, the weight average molecular weight of the first stage copolymer being about 2000 to 500,000 Daltons; and

c) in a second stage, continuing polymerization by continuously adding additional initiator and the balance of the monomers of said acrylate copolymer, over part or all of the balance of the polymerization cycle in order to maintain a constant initiator to monomers mole ratio for the monomers and initiator charged during the second stage, wherein the ratio of 2- ethylhexyl acrylate is lower in the second stage monomer ratio than in the first stage monomers ratio and the initiator to monomers mole ratio for monomer and initiator charged in the second stage is different than the initiator to monomers mole ratio of monomers and initiator charged in the first stage; the acrylate copolymer formed gradually continuously changing in weight average molecular weight from the end of said first stage and decreasing in concentration of 2- ethylhexyl acrylate through out the second stage, the weight average molecular weight of the total copolymer of the first stage and the second stage being greater than 10,000 Daltons to 250,000 Daltons.

Thus, claims 10-14 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

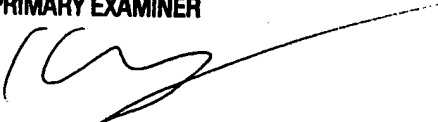
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Kelechi C. Egwim whose telephone number is (571) 272-1099. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T (7:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on (571) 272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KCE

KELECHI C. EGWIM PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KE' followed by a stylized flourish.